

# Education foundation boosts scholarships

by Stephanie Wei

The Professional Engineers Foundation for Education has increased the value of its scholarships in response to increased university tuition. Admission Scholarships will be raised from \$1,200 to \$1,500 and Undergraduate Scholarships will be increased from \$600 to \$1,000.

The foundation is a charitable organization that is run by its own board of directors under the stewardship of PEO. Funding comes from PEO member donations and in 2000 Ontario P.Engs donated more than \$65,000 in order to promote the training and education of professional engineers.

Admission Scholarships are awarded to the top male and female entrants to each of Ontario's engineering schools. Undergraduate scholarships are awarded to students who achieve a high academic standing in engineering programs. In addition, some schools also consider leadership criteria. The number of these scholarships at each school depends on the size of its engineering student body and they can be awarded to students at any level.

The foundation also awards a Gold Medal to the top graduate of each engineering school for achieving the highest standing in their final examinations.

As part of a recently approved communications plan, the foundation is working toward raising awareness of the scholarship program and establishing an identity separate from PEO. It hopes to increase the level of contributions by PEO members in order to support the higher scholarship levels. It is anticipated the foundation will need an additional \$30,000 annually. Plans for a comprehensive marketing campaign include a new website and logo, and print advertising and editorial coverage.

George Comrie, P.Eng., the foundation's president, indicates that these activities are part of the board's mission of increasing the scope of its education outreach. He believes students need to understand the importance of licensure: "They're joining a self-governing profession which has at its core the protection of the public. We want them to know that the profession supports academic excellence and we want to reinforce

the issue of professional competency." In the process, Comrie hopes to build stronger partnerships with the universities and more awareness of the licensing process within their administrations.

PEO members can contribute by sending donations either directly to the foundation at 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 1000, Toronto, ON M2N 6S9, or combining it with their membership fees payment by using the tick-off box and indicating the amount on the invoice.



Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson presents a Gold Medal to 2nd Lt. Nicole Lawrence at the Royal Military College of Canada. Other 2000-2001 Gold Medal recipients were: Alok Aggarwal (University of Waterloo); Stacy Bullock (University of Guelph); Todd Hoare (Queen's University); Andrew Lai-Fat-Fur (University of Windsor); Kenzie MacIsaac (Carleton University); Christopher Scollard (University of Western Ontario); Thomas Turk (Ryerson University) and Phillip Weicker (McMaster University).